



## Key indicators for Bulgaria\*

This update: 6 October 2017  
 Next update: 29 December 2017

		Febr.'17	March'17	April'17	May'17	June'17	July'17	August'17	Sept.'17
<b>1. Output</b>									
Industrial confidence <sup>1.1</sup>	%	-1.9	0.5	2.3	1.3	4.0	2.2	3.9	2.0
Industrial production <sup>1.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.7	6.5	5.1	9.4	3.3	4.2		
Construction Production <sup>1.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	-0.1	5.3	2.1	11.9	8.1	7.9		
		<b>15 Q4</b>	<b>16 Q1</b>	<b>16 Q2</b>	<b>16 Q3</b>	<b>16 Q4</b>	<b>17 Q1</b>	<b>17 Q2</b>	<b>17 Q3</b>
Gross domestic product <sup>1.4</sup>	yoy % ch.	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	
<b>2. Private consumption</b>									
Consumer confidence <sup>2.1</sup>	%	-28.7	-26.9	-27.5	-27.9	-25.4	-27.0	-25.4	
		<b>Febr.'17</b>	<b>March'17</b>	<b>April'17</b>	<b>May'17</b>	<b>June'17</b>	<b>July'17</b>	<b>August'17</b>	<b>Sept.'17</b>
Turnover in retail trade <sup>2.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	3.8	6.0	2.3	6.3	2.6	2.4		
		<b>15 Q4</b>	<b>16 Q1</b>	<b>16 Q2</b>	<b>16 Q3</b>	<b>16 Q4</b>	<b>17 Q1</b>	<b>17 Q2</b>	<b>17 Q3</b>
Individual final consumption <sup>2.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	5.7	2.1	2.5	1.3	1.7	5.0	4.1	
<b>3. Investment</b>									
Capacity utilization in industry <sup>3.1</sup>	%	75.2	72.4	73.3	74.6	74.6	75.5	74.7	
Gross fixed capital formation <sup>3.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.8	3.7	-0.1	-1.8	-4.5	-4.6	-1.0	
Change in stocks <sup>3.3</sup>	% of GDP	1.3	0.9	1.9	0.7	1.4	1.7	2.0	
<b>4. Labour market</b>									
Unemployment rate <sup>4.1</sup>	%	7.9	8.6	8.0	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.3	
Unemployment rate - male	%	8.0	9.3	8.8	7.4	6.8	6.8	6.9	
Unemployment rate - female	%	7.6	7.8	7.2	6.5	6.5	6.9	5.7	
Employment rate 15+ <sup>4.2</sup>	%	49.7	48.5	49.5	49.9	49.2	50.0	52.2	
Employment rate 20-64	%	68.1	66.5	68.0	68.5	67.7	68.6	71.7	
Employed persons <sup>4.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.4	0.9	0.7	-1.7	-1.8	2.1	4.6	
Labour costs <sup>4.4</sup>	yoy % ch.	5.7	7.8	7.7	8.0	8.1	10.1	11.0	
		<b>Febr.'17</b>	<b>March'17</b>	<b>April'17</b>	<b>May'17</b>	<b>June'17</b>	<b>July'17</b>	<b>August'17</b>	<b>Sept.'17</b>
Shortage of labour in industry <sup>4.5</sup>	%	24.2	23.5	26.8	26.2	25.9	25.2	27.1	28.7
Wages <sup>4.6</sup>	yoy % ch.	9.2	9.9	10.2	9.9	9.7			
<b>5. International transactions</b>									
Export order books in industry <sup>5.1</sup>	balance	-25.4	-26.8	-24.9	-23.7	-21.6	-22.5	-20.3	-21.2
Exports of goods <sup>5.2 **</sup>	mln. EUR	1981.3	2142.9	1934.9	2215.5	2276.6	2371.0		
Imports of goods <sup>5.3 **</sup>	mln. EUR	2111.9	2534.4	2240.6	2357.2	2350.9	2312.6		
Trade balance <sup>5.4 **</sup>	mln. EUR	-130.6	-391.6	-305.7	-141.7	-74.3	58.5		
Current account <sup>5.5 **</sup>	mln. EUR	253.7	-295.5	-111.1	181.5	431.5	1140.7		
Direct investment (net) <sup>5.6 **</sup>	mln. EUR	-230.0	91.6	64.4	-72.2	-154.5	36.0		
Portfolio investment (net) <sup>5.7 **</sup>	mln. EUR	35.5	253.0	-119.6	226.2	160.3	333.2		
		<b>15 Q4</b>	<b>16 Q1</b>	<b>16 Q2</b>	<b>16 Q3</b>	<b>16 Q4</b>	<b>17 Q1</b>	<b>17 Q2</b>	<b>17 Q3</b>
Exports of goods and services <sup>5.8</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.0	2.5	4.5	9.5	6.8	5.8	6.5	
Imports of goods and services <sup>5.9</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.6	0.8	2.8	7.5	5.5	7.1	7.7	
<b>6. Prices</b>									
HICP <sup>6.1</sup>	yoy % ch.	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.6	0.7	
		<b>15 Q4</b>	<b>16 Q1</b>	<b>16 Q2</b>	<b>16 Q3</b>	<b>16 Q4</b>	<b>17 Q1</b>	<b>17 Q2</b>	<b>17 Q3</b>
HPI <sup>6.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.0	4.6	6.5	8.8	8.1	9.0	8.6	
		<b>Febr.'17</b>	<b>March'17</b>	<b>April'17</b>	<b>May'17</b>	<b>June'17</b>	<b>July'17</b>	<b>August'17</b>	<b>Sept.'17</b>
Producer prices on domestic market (in industry) <sup>6.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.9	2.1	3.8	3.5	2.7	5.3	5.9	
Selling prices expectations in industry <sup>6.4</sup>	balance	2.5	4.5	6.3	5.0	8.1	8.2	2.9	2.4
Selling prices expectations in retail trade <sup>6.5</sup>	balance	5.3	4.7	4.7	5.5	10.1	4.2	6.1	5.8
<b>7. Monetary and financial indicators</b>									
SOFIBOR (3 months) <sup>7.1</sup>	index	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	
M3 <sup>7.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	7.3	8.5	7.6	8.0	7.0	6.9	7.7	
Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs <sup>7.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.8	3.3	4.0	4.3	3.6	3.8	3.9	
Exchange rate USD/BGN <sup>7.4</sup>	value	1.85	1.83	1.79	1.74	1.71	1.67	1.65	

Note: yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.

\* The key indicators are elaborated in accordance with the euro zone indicators system. The analytical document is quarterly updated. Source of the data are the NSI statistical surveys and BNB data.

\*\* The publication from BNB of data compiled in accordance with the Sixth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual starts on 17 April 2015 (BPM6). Information on the methodology and data on BNB indicators can be found on the website of the BNB, Statistics section - <http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm>.

## Comments\*

### 1. Output

According to the NSI business inquiries in September 2017 the **industrial confidence indicator** decreased by 1.9 percentage points compared to August 2017.

In July 2017 working day adjusted **Industrial Production Index** rose by 4.2% in comparison with the same month of 2016 (preliminary data). On annual basis in July 2017 Industrial Production Index calculated from working day adjusted data rose in the manufacturing by 6.3%, while the production went down in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 1.4% and in mining and quarrying industry by 0.8%.

In July 2017 working day adjusted data showed an increase by 7.9% in **the construction production**, compared to the same month of 2016. On an annual basis in July 2017, the increase of production in construction, calculated from working day adjusted data, was determined from the positive rate in the building construction, where the growth was by 15.9%, but in the civil engineering was registered a decrease by 0.9%.

According to the preliminary data, the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** at current prices in the second quarter of 2017 amounted to 24 149 million BGN. The GDP per person amounted to 3 405 BGN. In USD terms at average quarterly exchange rate of 1.77564 BGN per dollar, the GDP amounted to 13 600 million dollars or 1 918 dollars per person. In Euro terms, the GDP amounted to 12 347 million Euro or 1 741 Euro per person. According to the seasonally adjusted data<sup>1</sup>, the GDP growth rate in the second quarter of 2017 is 3.6% compared to the same quarter of the previous year and 1.0% compared to the first quarter of 2017.

### 2. Private consumption

In July 2017 the total **consumer confidence indicator** increases by 1.6 percentage points in comparison with its April level. The consumers' total assessment of the current development of the economic situation in the country over the last 12 months improves - an increase of the balance indicator by 3.9 percentage points. At the same time, their forecasts over the next

\* From July 6, 2016 annual data is published in a separate application, which is updated every first half year.

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally and calendar adjusted data.

12 months are less negative compared to the previous survey.

In July 2017 the working day adjusted **turnover in 'Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles'** marked rise f

rom 2.4% in comparison with the same month of the previous year. In July 2017 compared to the same month of 2016, the turnover increased more significantly in the 'Retail sale of computers, peripheral units and software; telecommunications equipment' by 20.3%, in the 'Retail sale in non-specialised stores' by 18.1% and in the 'Dispensing chemist; retail sale of medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles' by 7.9%. Decline was registered in the 'Retail sale of automotive fuel' – by 17.1% and in the 'Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet' - by 4.1%.

In the second quarter of 2017 for **individual consumption** were spent 67.4% of the GDP produced. According to seasonally adjusted data<sup>1</sup>, the indicator increased by 4.1% compared to the respective quarter of 2016.

### 3. Investment

In July 2017 in comparison with April the **average capacity utilization in industry** decreased (by 0.8 percentage points) and it reached 74.7%.

According to seasonally adjusted data<sup>1</sup>, the **gross fixed capital formation** in the second quarter of 2017 decreased in real terms by 1.0% compared to the same period of the previous year. The relative share of that indicator in GDP is 21.3%.

### 4. Labour market

In the second quarter of 2017 there were 3 171.7 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 681.4 thousand men and 1 490.4 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 52.2%, up by 2.7 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2016. In employment were 57.6% of men and 47.2% of women in the age group concerned.

In the second quarter of 2017 there were 213.9 thousand **unemployed persons** and the



**unemployment rate** was 6.3%. In comparison with the second quarter of 2016 the number of unemployed persons went down by 51.7 thousand and the unemployment rate declined by 1.7 percentage points.

Over the same period the unemployment rate decreased by 1.9 percentage points for men and by 1.5 percentage points for women achieving 6.9% and 5.7% respectively. In the second quarter of 2017 there were 123.9 thousand unemployed men (57.9% of all unemployed persons) and 90.0 thousand unemployed women (42.1%).

In the second quarter of 2017 **the total hourly labour cost** (preliminary data) rose by 11.0% compared to the second quarter of 2016. The total hourly labour cost grew by 10.6% in industry, by 11.5% in services and by 4.7% in construction.

According to the NSI business inquiries in September 2017 28.7% of the industrial enterprises pointed out the **labour shortage** as a factor limiting their activity.

In June 2017 the **average wage and salary** was BGN 1 027 or 0.8% less compared to the previous month. Compared to June 2016 the increase was 9.7%.

## 5. International transactions

According to the industrial managers' assessments in September 2017 in comparison with August slight decrease of the production assurance with **orders from abroad** (by 0.9 percentage points) was registered.

In July 2017 the **current account**<sup>1</sup> was positive amounting to EUR 1 140.7 million in July 2017, compared with a surplus of EUR 690.3 million in July 2016. In January - July 2017 the current account was positive and amounted to EUR 1 568.4 million (3.2% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a surplus of EUR 1 667.2 million (3.5% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> in January - July 2016.

In July 2017 **the trade balance**<sup>1</sup> recorded a surplus of EUR 58.5 million in July 2017, compared with a deficit of EUR 0.7 million in July 2016. In January - July 2017 the balance on goods was negative amounting to EUR 1 177 million (2.4% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a deficit of EUR 560.3 million (1.2% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> in January - July 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB.

<sup>2</sup> The estimates of GDP are taken from BNB.

In July 2017 **exports of goods (FOB)**<sup>1</sup> amounted to EUR 2 371 million, growing by EUR 322 million (15.7%) compared to July 2016 (EUR 2 049 million). In January - July 2017 exports of goods totalled EUR 14 746.5 million (29.8% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, increasing by EUR 1 969.1 million (15.4%) year-on-year (from EUR 12 777.4 million, 27.0% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>. In January - July 2016 exports dropped by 1.3% year-on-year. In July 2017 **imports of goods (FOB)**<sup>1</sup> amounted to EUR 2 312.6 million in July 2017, growing by EUR 262.9 million (12.8%) compared to July 2016 (EUR 2 049.7 million). In January - July 2017 imports of goods totalled EUR 15 923.4 million (32.2% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, growing by EUR 2 585.8 million (19.4%) in comparison to January - July 2016 (EUR 13 337.6 million, 28.2% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>. In January - July 2016 imports dropped by 7.0% year-on-year.

In July 2017 **the net direct investment**<sup>1</sup> was positive amounting to EUR 36 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 137 million in July 2016. In January - July 2017 direct investment recorded a negative balance of EUR 318.3 million (0.6% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a negative balance of EUR 872 million (1.8% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> million in January - July 2016. **The foreign direct investment in Bulgaria**<sup>1</sup> dropped by EUR 19.2 million in July 2017 according to preliminary data, compared with an increase of EUR 152.4 million in July 2016. **The direct investment abroad**<sup>1</sup> rose by EUR 16.8 million in July 2017, compared with an increase of EUR 15.3 million in July 2016.

In July 2017 **the balance on portfolio investment**<sup>1</sup> was positive amounting to EUR 333.2 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 69 million in July 2016. In January - July 2017 the balance was positive and equated to EUR 1 031.6 million (2.1% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a negative balance of EUR 1 132.3 million (2.4% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> million in January - July 2016. In July 2017 **portfolio investment - assets**<sup>1</sup> dropped by EUR 17.9 million, compared with a decline of EUR 64.3 million in July 2016. In July 2017 **portfolio investment - liabilities**<sup>1</sup> declined by EUR 351.1 million compared with an increase of EUR 4.7 million in July 2016.

**The external balance** in the second quarter of 2017 is positive. **Exports** of goods and services increased by



6.5%. **Imports** of goods and services increased by 7.7% (according to seasonally adjusted data)<sup>1</sup>.

GDP)<sup>2</sup>. Loans to Households and NPISHs were BGN 19.372 billion (19.7% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> at the end of August 2017.

In August 2017 the **exchange rate BGN against the USD** reached BGN 1.65 per USD.

## 6. Prices

In August 2017 the **harmonized index of consumer prices** increased by 0.7% compared to August 2016. The highest decrease was registered in 'Recreation and culture' - by 3.2%.

In second quarter of 2017 the **house price index** increased by 8.6% compared to same quarter of 2016.

**Producer Price Index on Domestic Market** in August 2017 increased by 5.9% compared to the same month of 2016. The domestic prices rose in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 10.4%, in the mining and quarrying industry by 9.0% and in the manufacturing by 3.1%.

According to the conjuncture inquiry in September 2017, the managers do not foresee a change of the **selling prices in industry** over the next 3 months.

## 7. Monetary and financial indicators

In August 2017 the **three-month interbank market index SOFIBOR**<sup>2</sup> decreased in comparison with August 2016 by 0.05 percentage points from 0.15% to 0.10%.

In August 2017 broad money (**monetary aggregate M3**)<sup>1</sup> increased annually by 7.7% compared to 6.9% annual growth in July 2017. At the end of August 2017 M3 was BGN 83.466 billion (85.1% of GDP)<sup>3</sup> compared to BGN 81.932 billion (83.5% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> in July 2017.

The **loans to Non-financial corporations, households and NPISHs**<sup>1</sup> in August 2017 amounted to BGN 50.610 billion. In August 2017, loans to Non-financial corporations increased by 2.8% annually (2.8% annual growth in July 2017) and at the end of the month amounted to BGN 31.238 billion (31.8% of

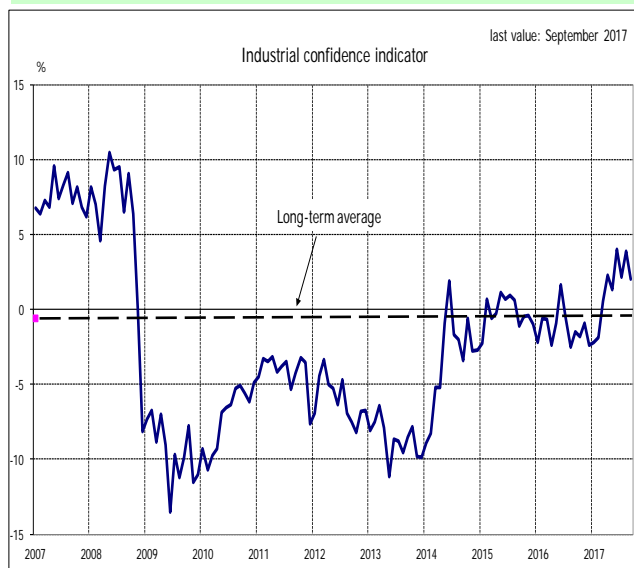
<sup>1</sup> Seasonally and calendar adjusted data.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB.

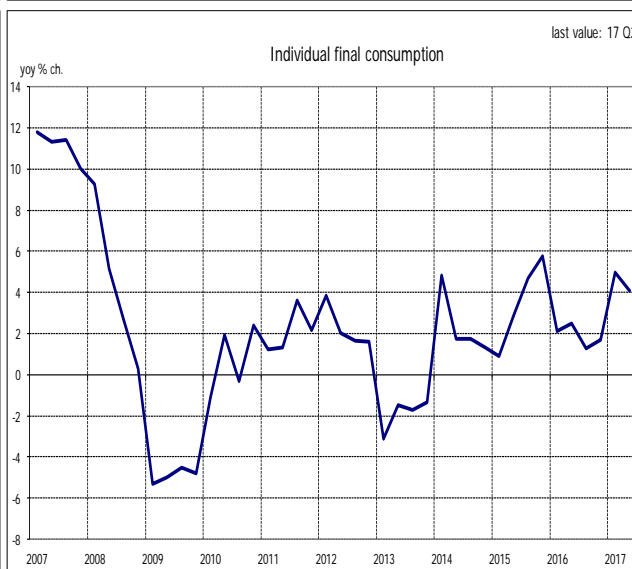
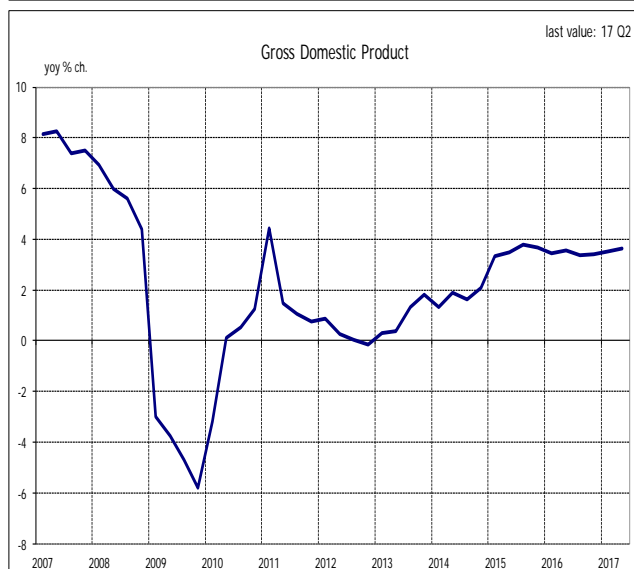
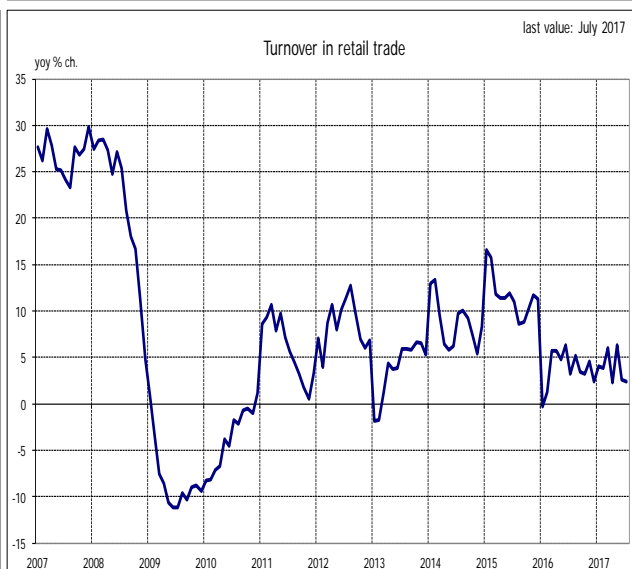
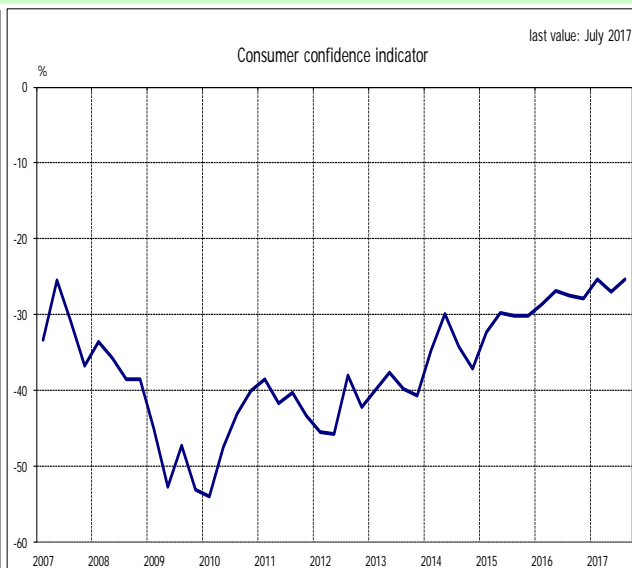
<sup>3</sup> The estimates of GDP are taken from BNB.



## 1. OUTPUT



## 2. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION

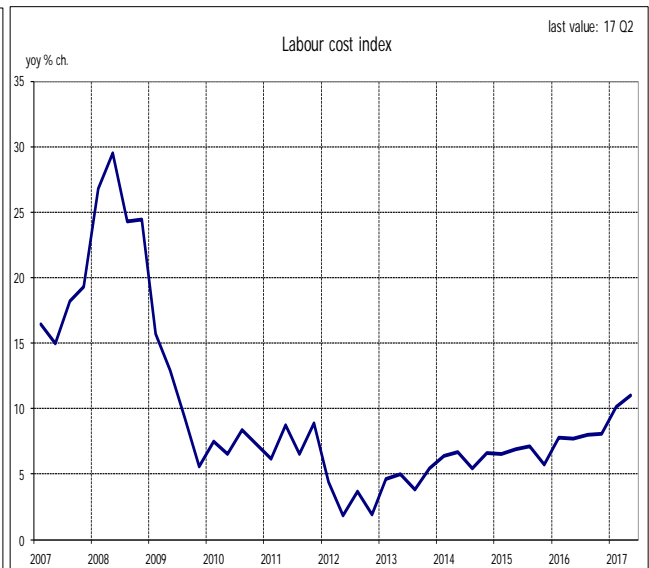
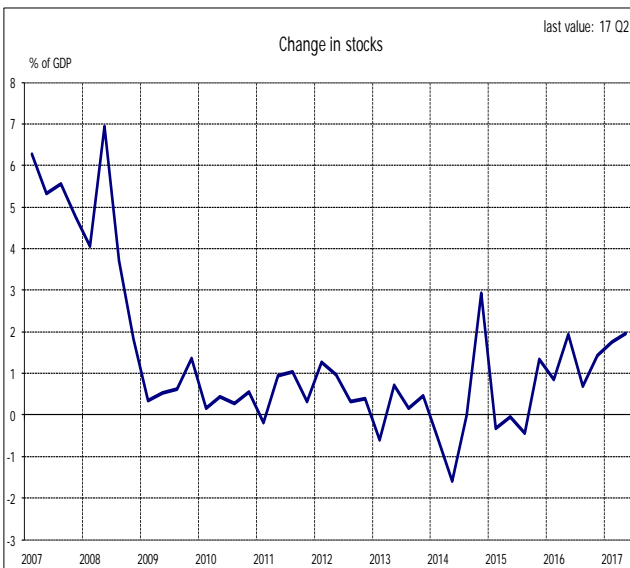
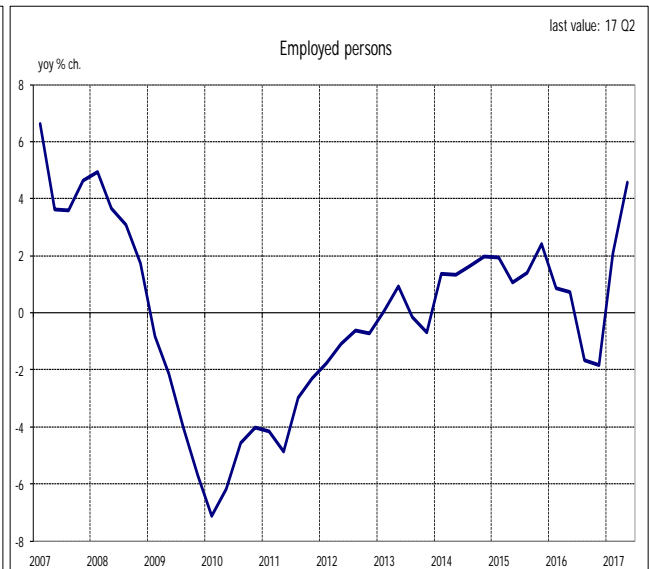
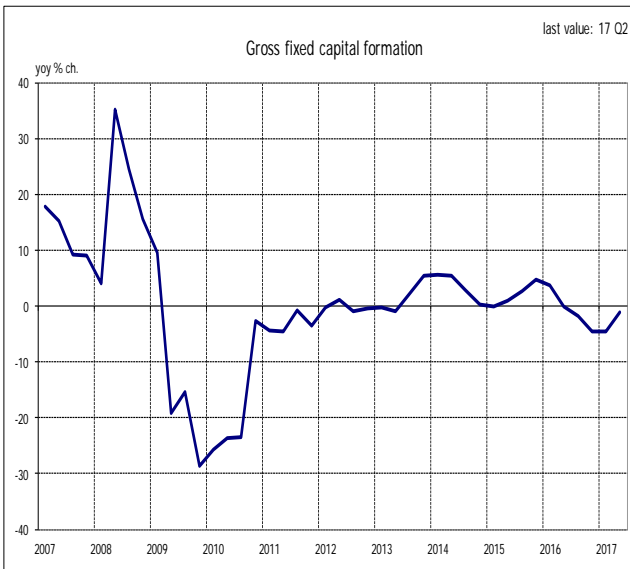
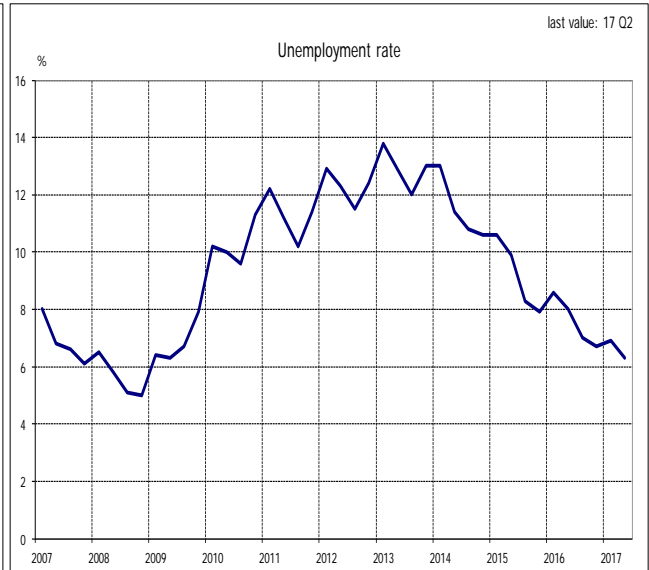
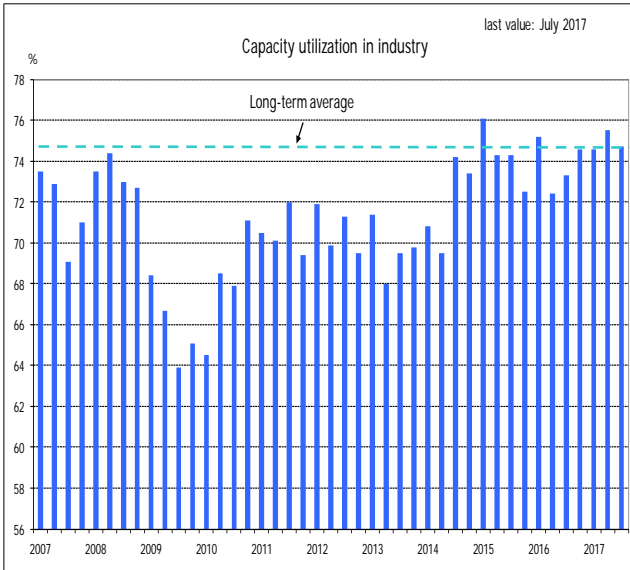


**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



### 3. INVESTMENT

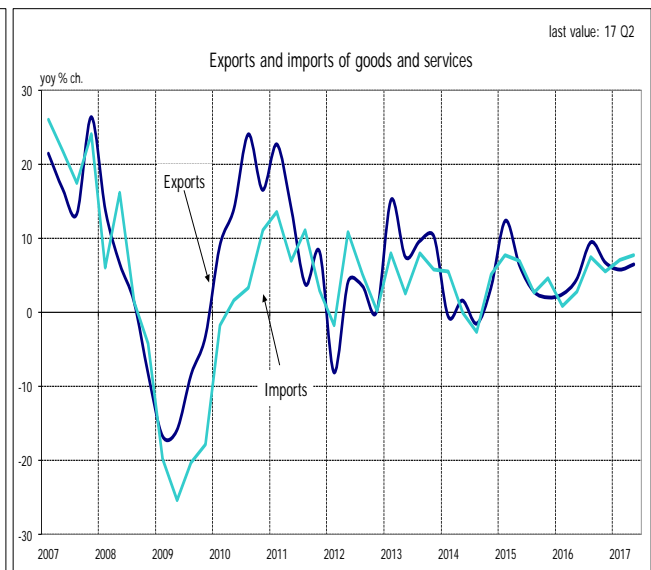
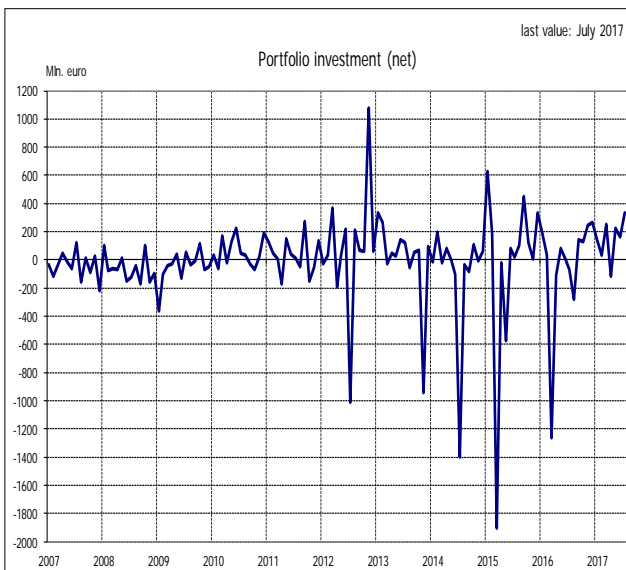
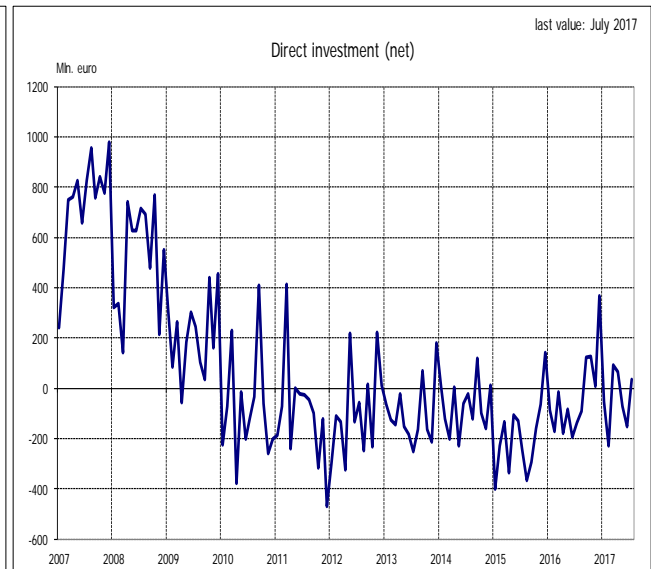
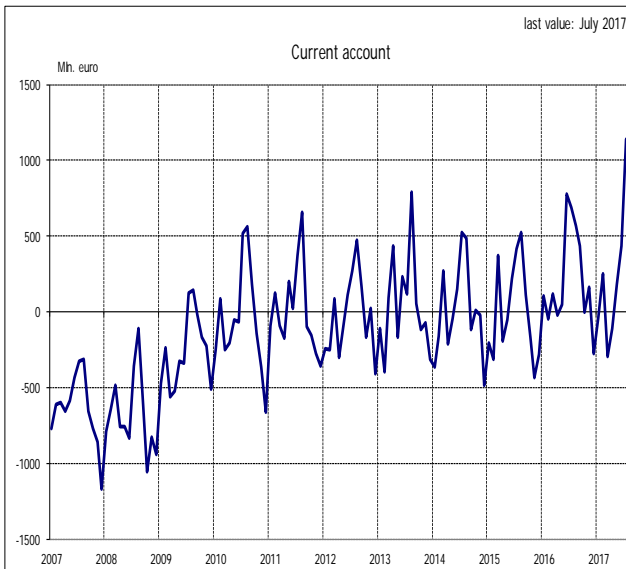
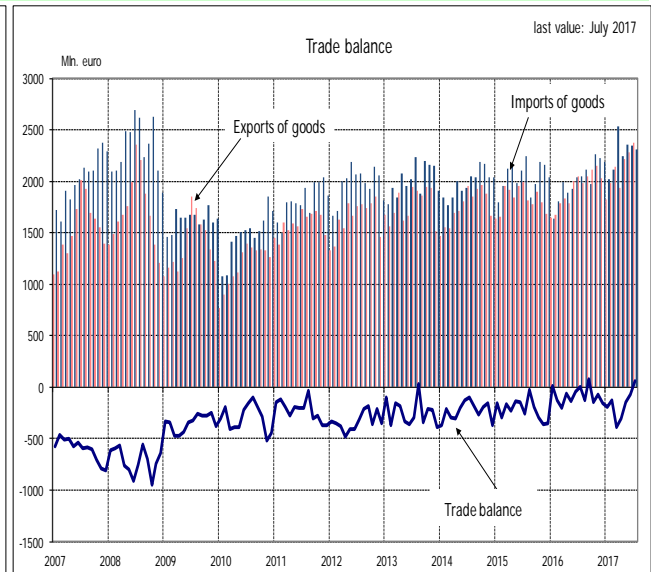
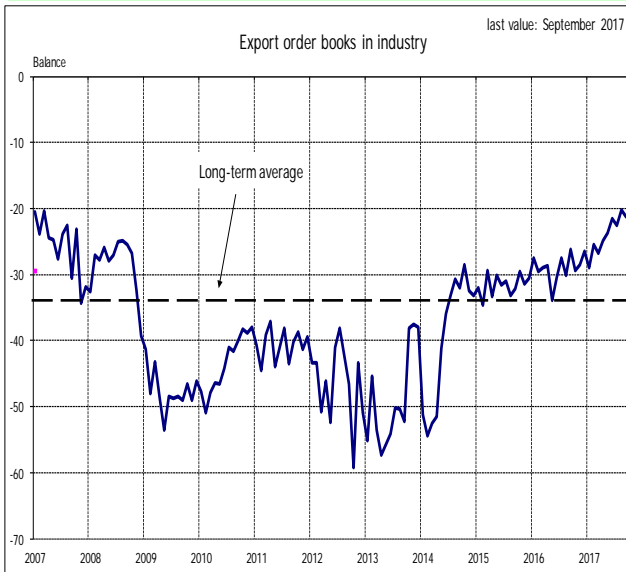
### 4. LABOUR MARKET



**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



## 5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS

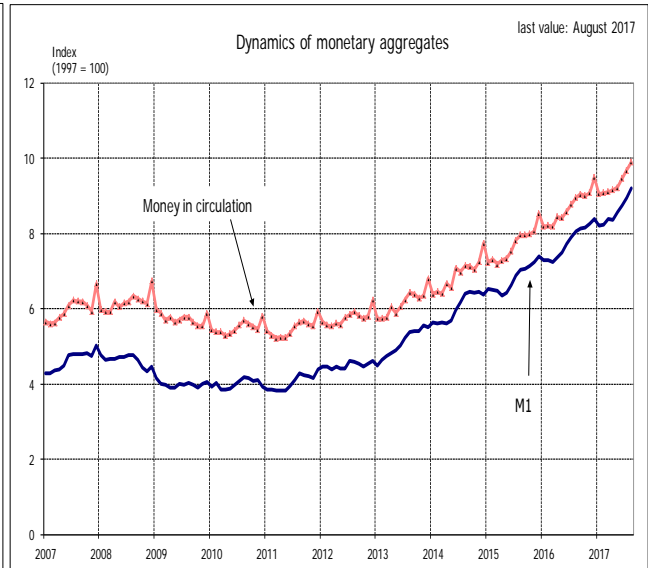
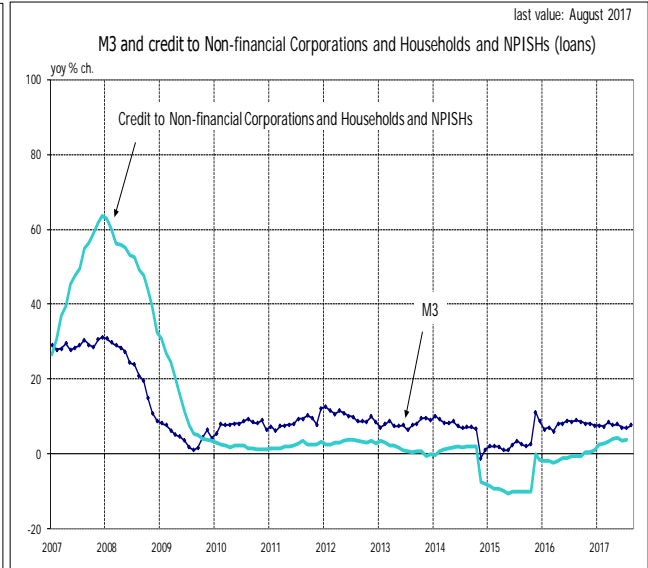
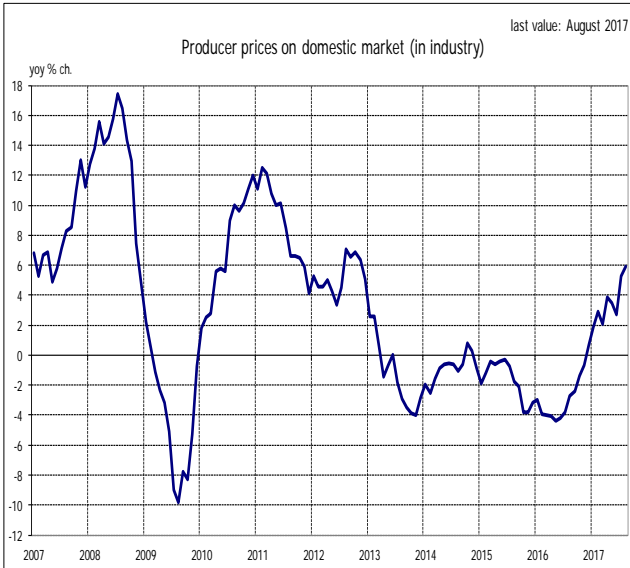
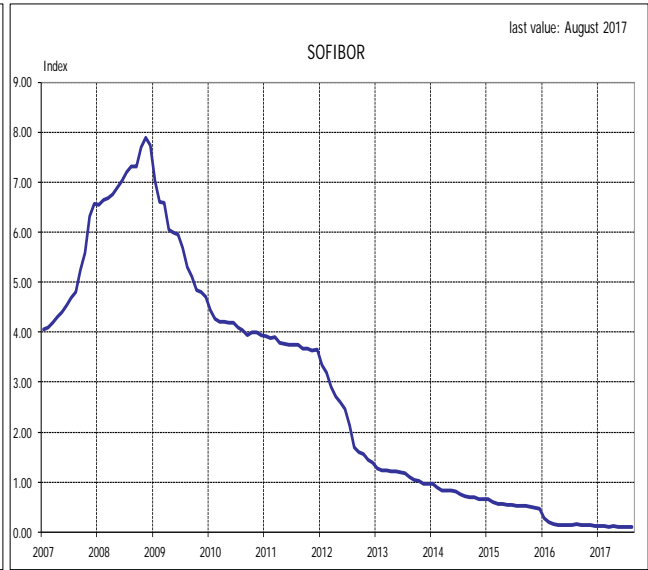


**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



**6. PRICES**

**7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS**



**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.





### Key indicators for Bulgaria - Methodological notes

№	Indicator	Note	Source
<b>1.</b>	<b>Output</b>		
1.1.	Industrial confidence indicator	Business survey in industry. The industrial confidence indicator is an arithmetic average of balances to replies on production expectations, order books and stocks of finished products (the latter with negative sign).	NSI
1.2.	Industrial production	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
1.3.	Construction Production	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
1.4.	Gross Domestic Product	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
<b>2.</b>	<b>Private consumption</b>		
2.1.	Consumer confidence indicator	Consumer survey. The consumer confidence indicator is an arithmetic average of balances of the expectations about the economic and financial situation, unemployment and savings of households over the next 12 months.	NSI
2.2.	Turnover in retail trade	Turnover in retail trade (excluding motor vehicles) at constant prices, growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
2.3.	Individual final consumption	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
<b>3.</b>	<b>Investment</b>		
3.1.	Capacity utilization	Average capacity utilization in industry, as a percentage of full capacity (Data are collected each January, April, July and October).	NSI
3.2.	Gross fixed capital formation	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
3.3.	Change in stocks	As a percentage of GDP. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
<b>4.</b>	<b>Labour market</b>		
4.1.	Unemployment rate	Ratio between the unemployed persons and the economically active population in Bulgaria (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.2.	Employment rate	Ratio between the employed persons and the total population of the same age group (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.3.	Employed persons	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.4.	Labour costs	Index of hourly labour costs incurred by the employers as a result of engaging the workforce, growth rate compared to the same period of previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
4.5.	Shortage of labour	Percentage of firms in industry pointing out shortage of labour as a constraint to production.	NSI
4.6.	Wages	Growth rate of the average monthly wages of the employees under labour contract nominal value compared to the same period of the previous year.	NSI
<b>5.</b>	<b>International transactions</b>		
5.1.	Export order books	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies	NSI
5.2.	Exports of goods	Balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.3.	Imports of goods	Balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.4.	Trade balance	Balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.5.	Current account	Balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.6.	Direct investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation	BNB
5.7.	Portfolio investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation	BNB
5.8.	Exports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
5.9.	Imports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI



<b>6.</b>	<b>Prices</b>		
6.1.	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.	NSI
6.2.	House price	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year. Data refers to new and existing dwellings (apartments).	NSI
6.3.	Producer prices on domestic market (in industry)	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.	NSI
6.4.	Selling price expectations in industry	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
6.5.	Selling price expectations in retail trade	Business survey in retail trade. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
<b>7.</b>	<b>Monetary and financial indicators</b>		
7.1.	SOFIBOR	Three-month interbank market index SOFIBOR (SOFIBOR: Sofia Interbank Offered Rate is a fixing of the quotations for unsecured BGN deposits offered in the Bulgarian interbank market).	BNB
7.2.	M3	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (monthly value: value at the end of the month).	BNB
7.3.	Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs (loans)	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (monthly value: value at the end of the month).	BNB
7.4.	Exchange rate USD/BGN	Period averages.	BNB